

CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA FOR DECEMBER, 1912.

DISTRICT No. 6, MISSOURI VALLEY.

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GENERAL SUMMARY.

The mild, dry weather of November continued through a great part of December. In all parts of the drainage area the precipitation was less than it usually is in the last month of the year, and the temperature was considerably above the normal, except in the mountainous parts of Colorado, Wyoming, and southwestern Montana. There were, of course, several cold periods, but they were not so severe as they usually are in December, and at Havre, Mont., the lowest temperature was 1° , this being the only December since the establishment of the station, 33 years ago, in which a temperature of zero or lower was not recorded. At the end of the month the Missouri River had not frozen below Pierre, S. Dak.; in fact, it was open at Pierre, and this is believed to have been unprecedented. Most correspondents have reported the soil dry, as both the rains and the snows were light in the fall as well as during December. In localities of North Dakota cattle suffered some for water; the pools and water courses were most all frozen, and there was no snow on the ground for stock to use instead of water.

TEMPERATURE.

In the mountain regions of Colorado, Wyoming, and southwestern Montana the mean temperatures for the month were below the normal; in all the remainder of the district they were above the December average. The mean daily excesses were between 3° and 4° in the lower part of the district, and in the Dakotas and eastern Montana, where comparatively warmer weather prevailed, they were between 6° and 8° . There were several cold periods, but without exception they were moderate for December. There were no cold waves that covered the entire district, and the lowest temperatures at the various stations occurred on widely varying dates.

The weather was warmest during the first half of the month, but there were no warm waves that covered any considerable extent of territory, and there were no thermometer readings that were exceptionally high. The almost entire absence of extreme temperatures, both high and low, was one of the most noteworthy features of the month.

PRECIPITATION.

In the lower part of the district most of the precipitation occurred before the 18th. In the western and northern regions it was well distributed through the month. The amounts, however, were light in all parts of the district, and the totals for the month were markedly deficient. The snowfall in Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, and southern Nebraska was no more than a trace at most stations; at a few stations it was as much as .2 inches; in northern Nebraska, the Dakotas, and eastern Montana, and Wyoming it was heavier, but the ground was generally bare at the end of the month. In the Rocky Mountains the fall was without exception below the average.

The total precipitation for the 12 months ending on December 31 was 1 to 6 inches above the normal in all of the mountain country. There was also an excess in North Dakota, northwestern Iowa and around the mouth of the Missouri River; in the latter area the excess was the greatest of the entire district, being somewhat more than 7 inches. In the remainder of the drainage area the precipitation was deficient, the departures ranging from a few hundredths of an inch to 6 inches.

RIVERS.

There was practically a normal flow of water in all streams in the district. There was less ice than is usual at the end of the year.

